
A FARCE.

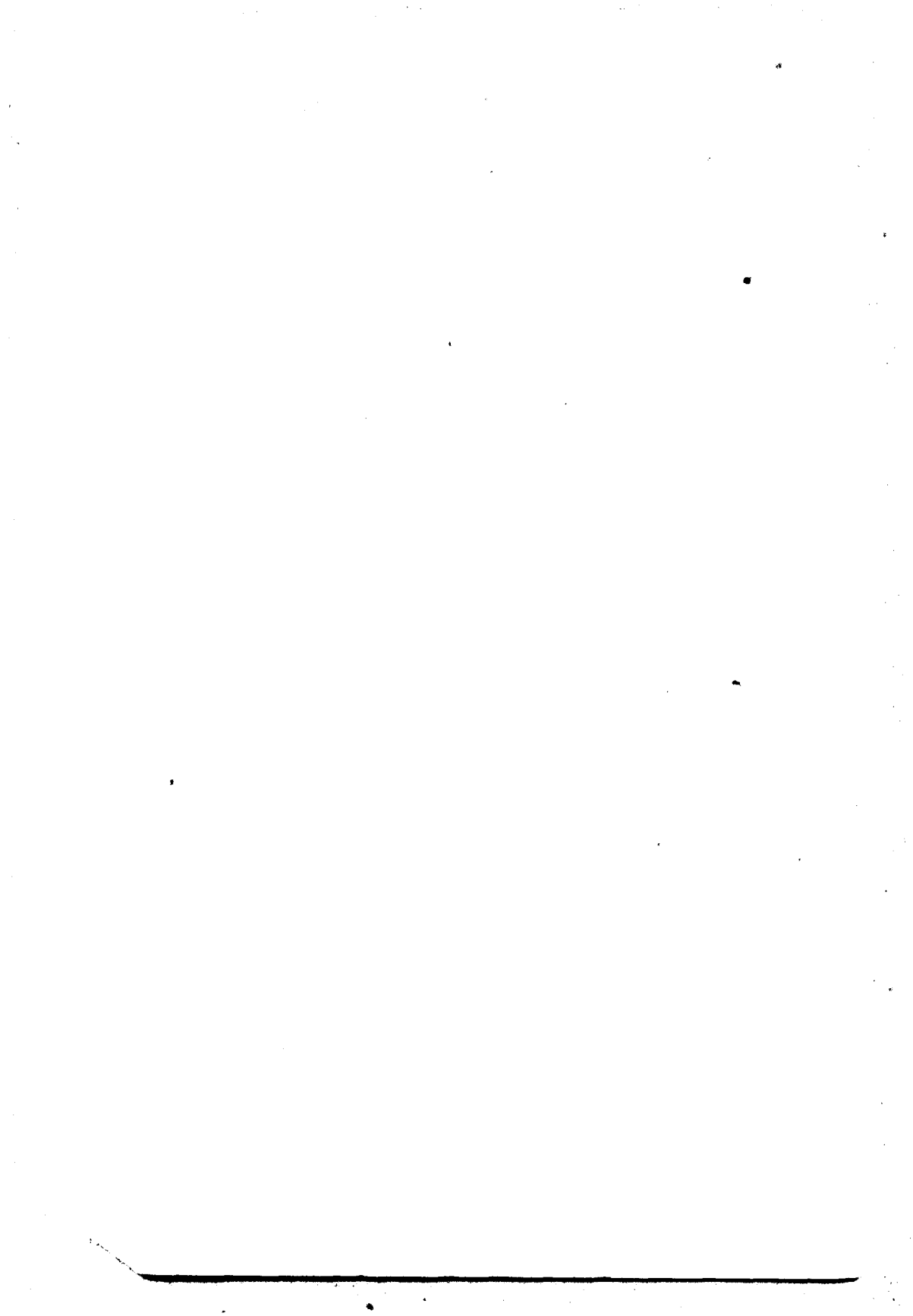
❖ The Goat Let Loose; ❖

OR

Rebekah Lodge Secrets Exposed

BY

ADELAIDE SCHMIDT WAYLAND.





ADELAIDE SCHMIDT WAYLAND,

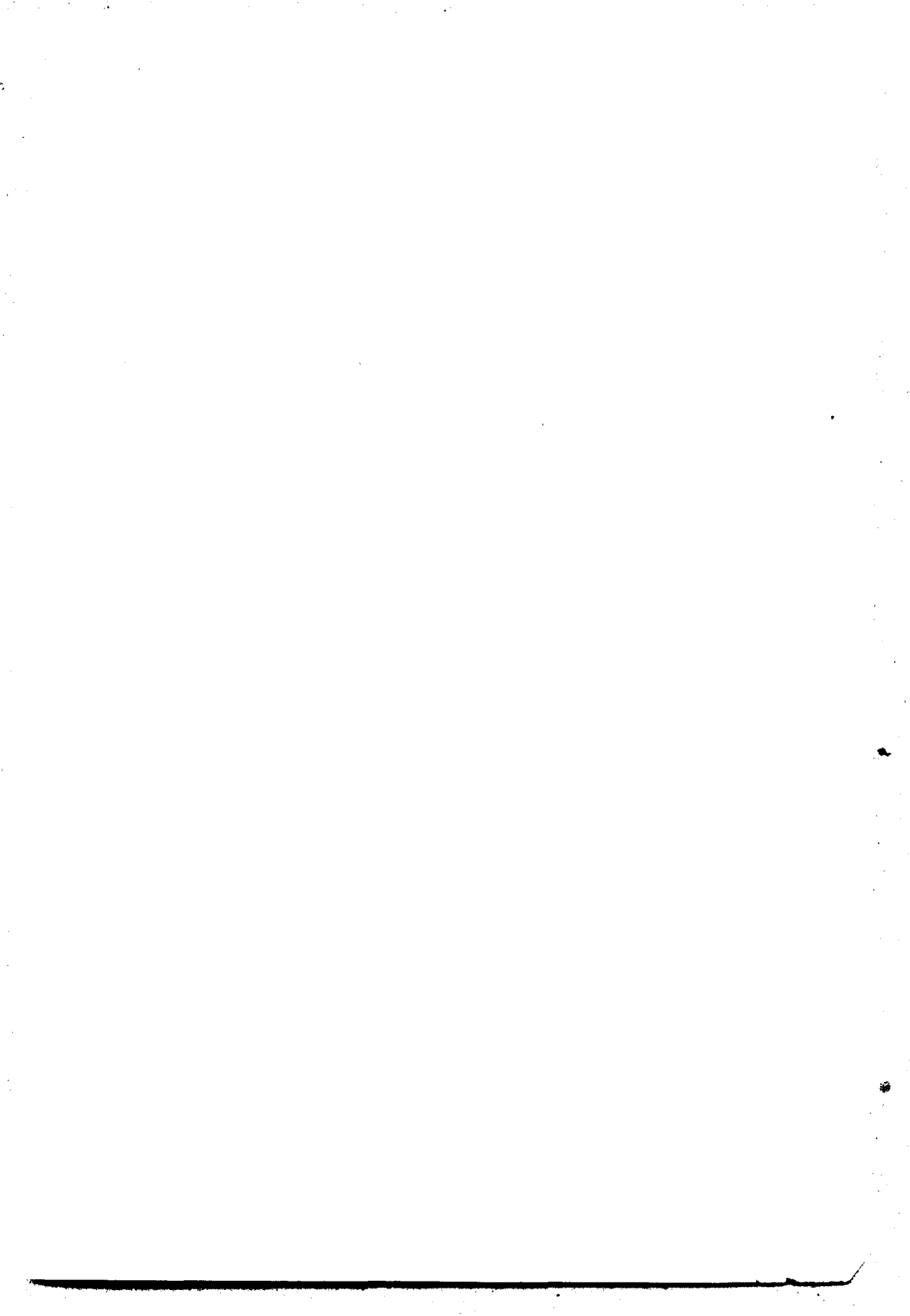
AUTHOR OF

"Bread Cast upon the Waters."

"The Moonshiners of Narrow Gulch."

"The Three Wise Men." Etc.

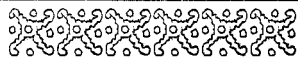




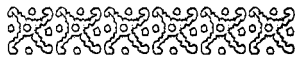
➤ The Goat Let Loose; <

—OR—

Rebekah Lodge Secrets Exposed.



By
ADELAIDE SCHMIDT WAYLAND,
Washington, Kansas.



39505 W

WASHINGTON, KANSAS:
W. H. BESACK, STEAM JOB PRINTER,
1891.

HS158
.W5

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1891,
By ADELAIDE SCHMIDT WAYLAND,
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.*

THE GOAT LET LOOSE;

—OR—

REBEKAH LODGE SECRETS EXPOSED.

[EXPLANATION. The lodge enters the hall in line of march to music, and going through as many and as elaborate figures as shall be chosen by the lodge, after which it is seated. The members of the order are dressed in robes of bright colored scrim, pink, lemon, red, etc., and wear crowns of the same colors covered with gilt stars and crescents. The Supporters have very miniature banners (turkey red squares trimmed with white ruffles) on very long poles, each pole surmounted by a goat's horn. The Supporters should march slightly in front of the Noble Grand and Vice Grand, and hold their banners crossed above the heads of their superior officers. The Noble Grand's crown has three points, one long and two short ones, in the front; the crowns of the other officers have twopoints of equal length; and those of the floor members have one point.]

NOBLE GRAND. Officers and members, we have here assembled for the transaction of business in the degree of Rebekah. We are enjoined to keep inviolate our secret work, except in the cases of those who will promise never to give us away, when we can tell the whole thing with impunity. Remember that each officer has some important duty to fulfil as embodied in the various charges. [Calls up the lodge.] Vice Grand, what is your duty?

V. G. To see that the gum is equally distributed, to hold the Noble Grand's when she is tired of chewing and while she is officiating in her office, and to brand the candidates.

N. G. Outside Guardian, what is your duty?

O. G. To stand against the door that no intruder may enter, to adjust the goat's blanket when he enters the anteroom, and to see that his horns are kept polished and in order.

N. G. Inside Guardian, what is your duty?

a. m. p., Dec. 15, 1918.

I. G. To give warning by holding up both hands when the goat is about to enter, that all may have an opportunity to mount their chairs.

N. G. Officers and members, you have heard the Inside Guardian's charge. It is known to you all that the goat is tractable only in the hands of the Warden, who is his keeper. The rest of us are in danger of injury. Let me, however, caution you to mount your chairs with as little noise as possible, that the candidates may not be alarmed. Although our sympathies may be aroused for those under initiation, let us bear in mind that we have undergone the same thing, and that it is but just and right that they should pass through the same ordeal. Secretary, what is your duty?

SEC'Y. To keep a correct account of the minutes, to turn over one-half of the receipts to the Treasurer, and to spend the other half in chewing gum for the lodge.

N. G. Secretary, have you performed this last important part of your duty?

SEC'Y. Noble Grand, I have.

N. G. Treasurer, what is your duty?

TREAS. To spend the half of the receipts turned over to me for Bologna sausage to regale the lodge, and to see that sociables are held to raise money for the per capita tax.

N. G. Treasurer, is the sausage in the anteroom?

TREAS. Noble Grand, it is. I placed it in the cracker box with the chewing gum.

N. G. Right Supporter of Noble Grand, what is your duty?

R. S. N. G. To see that the Noble Grand spells her name correctly when she signs all documents, and in case she can not write to see that she regularly makes her mark.

N. G. Left Supporter of Noble Grand, what is your duty?

L. S. N. G. To pass the water, and stick pins in any members who shall fall asleep during the transaction of business.

N. G. Right Supporter of Vice Grand, what is your duty?

R. S. V. G. To support my banner if I want to and if I don't want to to support it any way.

N. G. Left Supporter of Vice Grand, what is your duty?

L. S. V. G. To support my banner and the Right Supporter when she is tired of supporting herself. [The R. S. should be a lady and the L. S. a gentleman.]

N. G. Warden, what is your duty ?

W. To bring in the goat, and to restore order in the lodge room when he causes a panic.

N. G. Conductor, what is your duty ?

COND'R. To see that the stable is neat and in order, and to keep a supply of old coats, handkerchiefs, twigs, tenpenny nails and Navy Plug chewing tobacco on hand for the goat.

N. G. Officers and members, give the sign of the order.

[EXP. This is the sign of distress given later on. The Noble Grand answers them and seats them with a rap with her gavel.]

N. G. Officers and members, I now declare this lodge opened for the transaction of business. The Secretary will proceed to read the minutes of the last meeting.

SEC'Y., 1891. Lodge called to order at the usual time, 5 o'clock p. m., sharp. Everything in the order of business was quiet until reaching new business, when the Warden reported the goat in ill-humor, and stated that he had butted down the stable door. Sister Romany was appointed to hold up the door until the following day, when a carpenter could be procured to swing it.

E. B. Neverwork was balloted upon and blackballed. Reasons given that he was strictly opposed to gum chewing, and that he was so thin it was feared he would cut the goat in two. The goat was a playfellow of Mary's little lamb. He is getting up in years and has to be watched and handled with care. Brother Hog was reported as having a sty on his eye, and Sister Clumsy as having cut the forefinger of her right hand while opening a can of Boston baked beans for supper. A raw oyster for Bro. Hog's eye was sent him by a committee of three; and two sisters were sent with a piece of sticking plaster for Sister Clumsy's forefinger. They were instructed to remain with her until all danger is past.

No further business presenting itself, lodge closed in long life to all gum manufacturers.

ARAMINTA PRESCILLA QUACKENBERRY,
Secretary.

N. G. You have heard the reading of the minutes. If there are no corrections they will stand approved as read.

SISTER SARY. Noble Grand !

N. G. Sister Sary ?

S. S. The worthy Secretary omitted that the Warden was instructed to curry the goat and sandpaper his horns five times a day until to-night in honor of the initiation, that an order was drawn on the Treasurer for five cents to pay for the sandpaper, and that Brother Needlework was appointed to darn all rents made in the robes by His Royal Nibs, the goat.

N. G. Secretary, you will please enter the corrections in your minutes. Is there any favorable report from the Committee appointed to thresh the Comb Serenaders who entertained us at our last meeting ?

CHAIRMAN OF COM. No report, Noble Grand.

N. G. And why, pray ?

C. OF COM. We found the combs but not the musicians.

N. G. Committee, I consign you to the lodge dungeon under the stable, and to a diet of bread and water for one week. [Suppressed groans and sobs from the committee.] Have we any business under the head of initiation ?

SISTER L.-M., etc. Noble Grand !

N. G. Sister Little-Man-'Fraid-of-His-Horse ?

SISTER L.-M., etc. There are two candidates waiting in the anteroom.

N. G. The candidates have not been balloted for. Warden, prepare the ballot box.

[EXP. Warden advances to center of room, gives sign of the order and retires. He soon staggers in with a large dry goods box in which there is one croquet ball. This he places on an inclined plane in the center of the room.]

N. G. The ballot box is now ready. That we may the more intelligently vote, it behooves us to refresh ourselves. Treasurer, retire and bring in the life-giving sausage. Secretary, follow the worthy Treasurer and return with our beloved, our soul-inspiring chewing gum.

[EXP. Treas. and Sec'y giving the sign of the order retire and presently return, the former with one or more links of Bologna and a huge carving knife. He cuts a slice for each member of the lodge. The Sec'y follows with the cracker box, and presents each with a small piece of gum. Then follows the eating of the sausage by all at once, much smacking of lips being indulged in. This eating occupies a few minutes.]

N. G. Keeper and protector of the royal silver finger bowl, leave the room and bring it and the clean laundried towel.

[EXP. The keeper retires and returns with a large dishpan in his hands and a clean sheet over his arm. Each one uses this to clean the fingers. Some of the brothers should roll up their sleeves before dipping the fingers.]

N. G. [After finger bowl has been removed.] Produce your gum. As you advance to cast your ballot, chew! Chew hard, and ponder well.

[EXP. The members advance one at a time, pick up the ball and place it at the high end of the box. It rolls to the lower end, making a loud noise each time a ballot is cast. The balloting should be done to music. The Noble Grand after declaring the ballot closed, advances to the box, examines it very carefully and returns to her seat.]

N. G. I find the candidates elected, much to my surprise. It is true we were granted a special dispensation, allowing us to take these candidates into our order. Still, as they are under our prescribed age, I hoped and expected that they would be black-balled. Conductor, escort them to my station.

[EXP. Partly amused, partly surprised, very much frightened at everything and in awful and grotesque costumes, they enter and march around the room to the music of "Yankee Doodle." The lodge arises and sings:

Yankee Doodle went to town,
For to ride a pony,
But much to Yankee's great surprise
He rode a little goatie.

CHORUS—Yankee Doodle, Doodle do, etc.

The candidates come to a stand in front of the Noble Grand.]

N. G. Candidates! It is well known that you are two specimens of ill-used humanity. It has been your habit, ever since you married, to arise regularly at five o'clock in the Summer and four o'clock in the Winter, to feed the horses and milk nine cows before breakfast, then to get breakfast, the one for herself, hus-

band and ten children, the other for herself, husband and fifteen children. [The candidates acquiesce by bowing their heads and saying "Yes ma'am."] For years you have both cut the kindlings, drawn the water and made the fires. Besides all this you both take in two family washings, do all of your own housework and the sewing for yourselves and children. This seems a prodigious, nay an impossible task. Yet, we know that you have done this and still live. From tonight your lives must change if you take our obligations. Reflect well before vowing to take them upon yourselves. After what I have said, do you still wish to take this degree of Rebekah?

CANDIDATES. Yes ma'am.

N. G. Place your thumbs in your ears and repeat after me; I, Jerusha Hopkins, I, Mehitable Hopkins, twins from Leadville, do promise, declare and say that from this night forth we will turn the tickets on our husbands from pure force of principle. We will don the pantaloons on all ordinary days in the year, allowing our husbands the privilege of wearing them on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, the Fourth of July and George Washington's birthday. We pledge ourselves to be at the Post office after every mail, that we may have the first reading of all letters coming to our husbands. This to cause them to be very circumspect in their writing and to CHOOSE their CORRESPONDENTS WITH CARE. We will accompany them to all elections, so that, if they sell their votes, we may have the money for ice cream, bananas and chewing gum. We promise to demand a new hat and a new dress every time the season changes, the dresses to cost not more than \$30 apiece, the hats not more than \$10, and not less than THOSE WE HAVE ON. Knowing that our husbands have not been easily led in the past, we vow to procure each a seven shooter, a bowie knife, a couple of slugs and an Indian club, to be kept on hand as mere matters of persuasion, and to be paid for out of the money taken in at our first sociable. All this we promise to fulfil on our words as Hopkins, and set our seals to this vow in the following manner.

[Exp. The Noble Grand takes up a plate from her desk, and, holding it right side up, rubs the bottom vigorously with her hand and rubs her whole face with the same hand. Her Supporters advance to the candidates and hold in front of each of them a plate that has previously been blackened on the bottom. A suppressed giggle follows

and the candidates look about the room in a questioning and INNOCENT manner. This gives the audience a good view of their black faces. The Noble Grand calls the lodge to order with several raps of her gavel, that should be a croquet mallet, or something equally ridiculous.]

N. G. Conductor, escort the candidates to the Vice Grand for further obligation.

[EXP. The music strikes up, the lodge arises and sings :

Down went McGinty to the bottom of the sea,

To the bottom of the sea, to the bottom of the sea.

Down went McGinty to the bottom of the sea,

Pitched down there by the goat.

Candidates stop in front of Vice Grand.]

V. G. Candidates, place your hands on the chairs in front of you that your positions may be humble.

N. G. Warden, perform your part of the ceremony.

[EXP. Warden retires and leads the goat in very quietly and advances with it to Noble Grand's chair. An active man with an imitation goats' head, horns, beard and everything complete and a large white fur robe are the requirements for a vicious goat. Make the goat's head of pasteboard and cover it with white canton flannel, large glass marbles with painted brows form the eyes. It will require some ingenuity and patience to get up a laughable goat. The Warden should procure a light chain and a dog collar by which to lead him. The V. G. gives her obligation while the goat is being led in. The members rapidly but noiselessly mount their chairs.]

V. G. Candidates, it is right that you being new members should serve your apprenticeship until the admittance of more candidates when your duties shall devolve on them. You have taken some of our vows and it is now too late to turn back. Remain in your present position and repeat after me :

We do solemnly promise to perform the following duties once a week, sweep the lodge and anterooms, shake the lodge paraphalia, wash the windows, dust the furniture, in warm weather to fan the Noble and Vice Grands and in cold weather to fire up. We will run all errands, do all committee work and chew hay for the goat faithfully and willingly until our apprenticeship closes.

V. G. I, Vice Grand of this lodge, do firmly believe you will be staunch members of this order and now order the Conductor to fasten your badges on your backs. [These are two large pie

pans.] Candidates, advance to the Noble Grand for further instruction.

N. G. [In a stage whisper.] Warden, advance to meet the candidates.

[EXP. The candidates very busy gazing about the room as they advance, do not see the goat until he meets them in the middle of the room. The screaming, butting, chasing and tumbling that then follows can better be imagined than written; but the candidates must bear in mind that the goat can not see them, and they must have "method in their madness." While they must act always as though they are trying to get away from the goat, they must often in their frenzy come near enough to touch him, that he may know in what direction to strike out. The Warden can also guide him some by the chain. The goat should be a strong, active man, as this part of the performance is an arduous task. A real goat can not be used, as he would perform when he was ready and not when wanted to.

N. G. [Advancing to middle of room.] Warden, I told you to keep the goat on half rations for two weeks.

W. He hasn't had anything at all for two weeks.

N. G. [Thoughtfully.] Yes, I see, you have kept his Navy Plug away from him. You know he is always unmanagable when his tobacco is kept from him. I will calm him down. [This in a lofty superior tone.]

[EXP. The candidates stand huddled together, earnestly watching for the next step. The Noble Grand goes to the goat pats him, talks to him, calling him poor dear, nice Billy, etc. He stands very still when she says in a proud tone, "There, that is all that was needed. See how gentle he is. Now I will take a little ride to encourage the candidates." She attempts to sit on Billy's back, when he becomes rampant, rears and pitches and knocks the Noble Grand down. Nothing daunted she arises and calls for hay. A large bunch is brought her and she goes to the goat, who has been butting his way towards the door. She presents the hay to him, talking kindly. He turns and throws her down, then turning, pulls away from the Warden and makes a grand rush out of the room, the chain rattles after him.]

N. G. [Stamping her foot.] Warden, retire and bring back the goat, the candidates must ride. I will see that you lose your office, sir.

W. Aye, aye, ma'am. [He goes out hurriedly with downcast head and soon returns.]

W. Noble Grand, the goat has escaped us. He is nowhere to be found.

[EXP. The Noble Grand looks perplexed, beats a little tattoo on the floor with her foot and finally says:]

N. G. Candidates, this is an unparalleled case. You are the first members in the history of our order who have not ridden the goat. As he is lost you must become one of us without going through this part of the ceremony. Advance to the desk and receive the secret and unwritten work. The permanent password is chewing gum. [Given in an audible whisper.] The semi-annual password is cake and ice cream, in the Summer and in the Winter it is oyster stew.

You may be climbing trees sometime [candidates interrupt by saying "Yes ma'am,"] and falling break some of your bones or you may be running races at a picnic and injure yourselves so that it will be impossible for you to move. We have a secret sign of distress for such cases. It is to be used as follows:—When a grown person approaches you, place your thumbs in your ears and move your hands back and forth frantically with a flying motion. [Noble Grand illustrates and candidates imitate her.] If the person approaching is a Rebekah, he or she will answer by placing the thumb of one hand at the back of the bent head and making a motion similar to your own, at the same time coming to your relief. If such person does not prove to be a Rebekah, you will have to lie where you are, of course, until one shall happen to pass by. It is just possible that you may be late to lodge some night, and remember lodge opens promptly at 5 p. m. and closes at eleven and twelve. Should this happen, you must advance to the outer door and give nineteen distinct raps. The outside guardian will open the door, when you must say goat in a subdued tone. You shall then be admitted and advance to the inner door, before which you shall prostrate yourselves, your heads touching the floor. The Warden shall then give you fifteen lashes with the horse whip belonging to the lodge. If you bear this chastisement without a cry or murmur, you will be admitted to the hall, where you shall be given a seat on the floor. Tardy members are not, in our order, entitled to a chair. If, however, you cry out during your punishment, you shall work your way in again,

and repeat this, until you can go through the whole thing with fortitude and courage. Oddfellowship was taken from the North American Indians, the first lodge of white men being instituted by Christopher Columbus. It is a part of our duty, therefore, to emulate the stoicism of the red man and the bravery of our founder.

[Exp. At this point the sounds of cries and of lashes from a horsewhip are heard from outside. Then a short silence when the sound of the whip is heard but no cries. A brother soon enters, dressed in fantastic clothes and rubbing his eyes.]

N. G. You! Is it? I am not surprised! You will never learn to control yourself. Attendants of the royal bath, seize him and wash away his tears.

[Exp. Two men come forward, seize the culprit by the collar and pull him to a tub of water that stands in a conspicuous place. Ordering him to go down on his knees and bend his head over the tub, they proceed, as soon as he has obeyed, to wash his face. There is more splash and noise, of course, than washing. The candidates look on with clasped hands, frightened faces and trembling limbs. When the tardy member's face has been wiped, he is lead to the Noble Grand, who places a dunce cap on his head. He is then lead to the middle of the room where he sits down on the floor.]

N. G. [Turning to candidates.] Candidates, you are now full fledged members of the Rebekah lodge. But before we can consider you worthy sisters, there is one more thing required of you. Advance to the Vice Grand to be instructed.

V. G. Candidates, bare your arm for the branding iron.

C. No. 1. [In a whimpering tone.] Oh! I just can't do it. I can't stand any more.

C. No. 2. [Wringing her hands and crying.] Neither can I! That awful goat was all I could stand.

V. C. Candidates, I am ashamed of you. All of these worthy brothers and sisters carry on their arms the long wide scar of the cruel branding iron. For shame! Where is your courage?

C. [Speaking together and crying.] I haven't any shame and I can't be branded.

V. G. Then I will have to make you submit.

[EXP. Vice Grand, who should be a very small woman, seizes the red hot soldering iron from the fire pot and advances to the candidates. They run with the V. G. after them. The other members become very much excited and act as though they wish to run. Noble Grand stamps her foot, shakes her fist and calls out to the candidates to stand still, to submit to the brand, etc. The candidates become more excited as the noise increases, and after running and dodging about for some time, rush out of the door with the Vice Grand after them.

N. G. [In loud excited tones.] Members, the goat is lost. we must not allow the candidates to escape us. Quick, follow me. We'll catch them.

[EXP. While N. G. is saying this she is advancing to the middle of the room, the members of the lodge crowding about her. As she finishes speaking they all make a rush for the door, shouting:

"We'll catch 'em! We'll brand 'em! We'll
bring back the candidates."

This enables the lodge to close the initiation at its climax. The N. G. may then return and state that the candidates having utterly escaped, she wishes to say that nothing further can be done until they are found, and that until such time they must be considered, according to the rules of the lodge, as dishonorable members.



SUBSCRIBE FOR

“The Western Odd Fellow,”

PUBLISHED AT

Topeka, Kansas.





